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Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dewey, del.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to Purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.
3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.

SOME SIMPLE HOME-MADE GIFTS.

By P. A. SCHWARZENBACH.

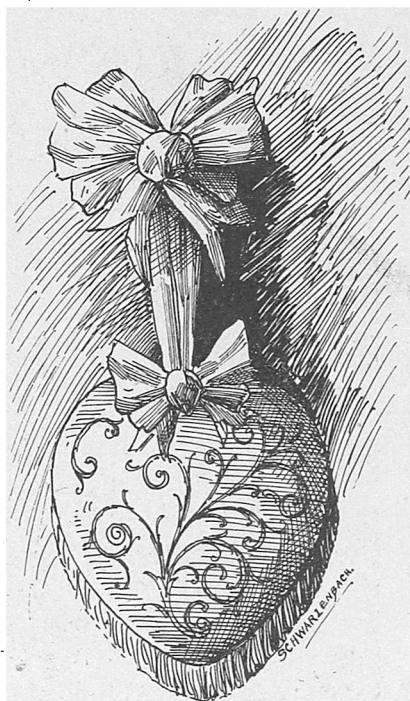
TO THE right-minded, a simple token made by loving hands has far more value than the most elaborate and costly gift that money can buy. Many a one, well along in the path of life, has, hidden away among their most sacred relics, some such simple gifts that bring up before their dimmed eyes "memories of the long ago," gifts valued beyond price for the kind good will, or the tender, loving wishes embodied in their making.

Suggestions, even to the most ingenious, are always valuable, and, to this end, I offer the following ideas, trusting they will find favor with our readers:

Design No. 1 is a simple wall-cushion—a receptacle for hat-pins, scarf-pins—anything, in fact, in the pin line, and therefore may be available for either sex. This may be made of pink or rich red silk, worked with either silver or gold tinsel, the knot of a shade lighter or darker ribbon for hanging on the wall. This is simple and easy to make, and will be found an acceptable little gift, as it is useful as well as ornamental.

Design No. 2 is a photograph-holder. The body of this is heavy cardboard, covered with sienna-colored paper muslin; upon this press different colored leaves, fasted and pressed firmly into place. After thoroughly dry give them a good coat of white varnish. When the picture is in place a piece of glass placed over the whole and bound neatly at the edges will give extra protection. If well and tastefully done the effect is very charming.

For design No. 3 take a common palm-leaf



DESIGN NO. 1. WALL-CUSHION.

fan—of course, clean and in good condition; cut out neatly, as shown in the sketch, for the pictures, and work the scrolls and edge with silver or gold tinsel, or combine both, which gives a very rich effect. Tie with a bow, that may be of a quiet olive, and let the tassels be a mixture of red and yellow. There is a chance here to exercise your ingenuity in new arrangements and combinations on the same lines, as much variety is possible.

If you have an old pair of bellows that have outlived their usefulness, use them as the basis of design No. 4. They will make a very decorative wall-pocket, if tastefully treated. Cover with a deep wine-red silk, and either paint or embroider thereon a design of apple blossoms. It might be well to either gild, or finish with enamel paint, the handle and nozzle. Let the ribbon for the bow be a deeper shade of the silk, or a rich harmonizing contrast.

Some dried wheat or ornamental grasses, readily found at this season of the year, can be placed in the top, which would add to the general effect. These are but suggestions. Should you have ideas of your own,—and you surely have,—let these sketches serve as a nucleus upon which to work. A great variety of color combinations may be employed, to suit the individual receiving the gift or the taste of the donor, and the designer sincerely hopes that these sketches may be of some use to the readers.

INDIVIDUAL creams and sugar-bowls will be used for the holiday breakfast. They are in pale green Dresden effects, fluted and plain: all are pretty, all inexpensive, but immensely decorative at best.